



CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION: CUT NOW, PAY LATTER

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Issue

Washington's Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) receives large subsidies from the federal government in the form of reimbursements based on previous state spending. Each year, CVCP gets a federal grant for an amount equal to 60% of state spending (minus any recoveries, such as restitution) from three years ago. This means that the federal grant received in 2010 was based on how much the state spent on CVCP in 2007, and big cuts to state spending in 2012 will mean far fewer federal dollars awarded to cover CVCP's costs in 2015. The state will have to make up that difference.

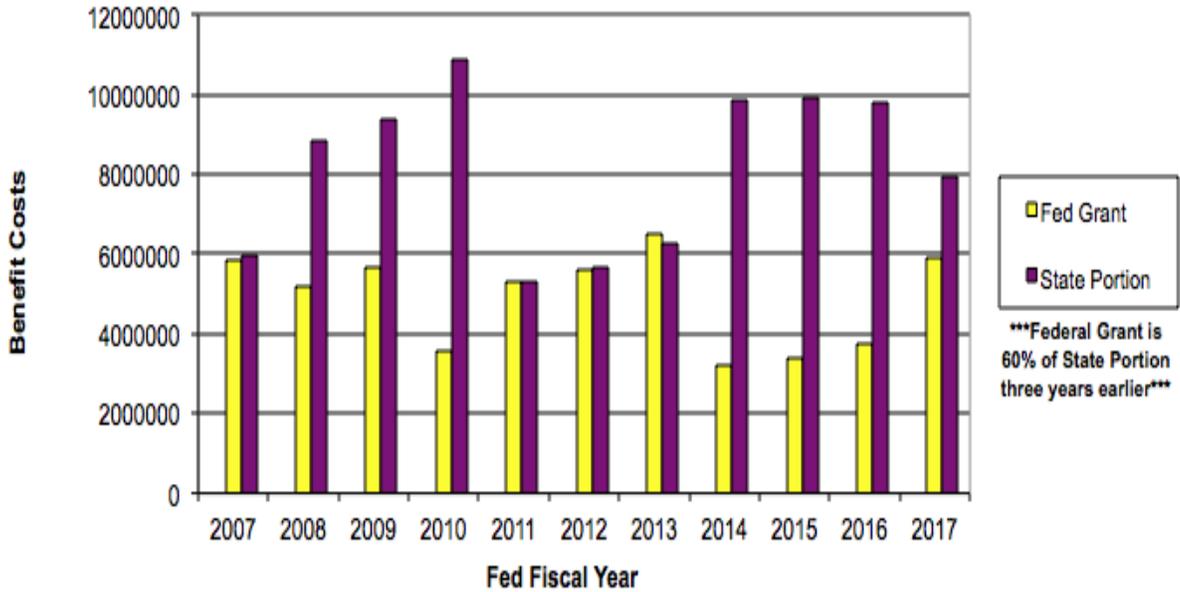
Funding cuts have already had a dramatic impact on the program:

- Washington's CVCP was authorized in 1973 and, until 2010, **was one of the leading programs in the country** for breadth and scope of services.
- In 2010 and 2011, the legislature approved cuts to the program that meant a **74% reduction** in total payments per claim, including a **67% reduction** in medical and mental expense payments, and **elimination** of the permanent partial disability benefit, among other drastic cuts.
- Previously, CVCP was funded in part through court-assessed fees and fines. In 2010, **the legislature diverted these fees and fines** into the State General Fund, replacing this critical funding with an account that has so far **failed to generate adequate revenue**.
- CVCP **helps victims of serious crimes**, such as sexual assault, domestic violence, homicide and child abuse, **pay for expenses related to these crimes**, like medical benefits, mental health treatment, funeral expenses and prescription costs.

Big cuts to CVCP's state funding create a "yo-yo effect" that means the state will need to pay much more in the future to keep the program going.

Chart Area

State vs Federal Costs



Need

CVCP needs robust and dedicated revenue streams to remain a stable and sustainable source of much-needed support for Washington’s victims of serious crimes.

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